



Missouri Secretary of State  
JASON KANDER

2015 POLICY AGENDA



Dear Fellow Missourians,

Since taking office in 2013, I have worked hard as your secretary of state to support small businesses, preserve the integrity of our elections, fight back against financial fraud and call for more transparency in state government.

I'm proud of what my office has accomplished, especially in just the last year:

- Launched a new online business filing system to make it easier to do business in Missouri
- Established the Elections Integrity Task Force to coordinate efforts across government agencies and preserve the integrity of our elections
- Convened a first-of-its-kind Senior Investor Symposium to encourage collaboration between the financial industry and senior advocates in fighting financial exploitation
- Returned \$10.5 million to victims of financial fraud
- Unveiled [www.momilitaryvote.com](http://www.momilitaryvote.com) an online portal that makes it easier in Missouri than in any other state for members of the military to register to vote and cast their ballots
- Submitted the smallest general revenue operating budget than any secretary of state has since 1999.

My office also drafted several pieces of legislation that became law. We cracked down on fraudulent liens filed against law enforcement. We leveled the playing field for military personnel who wish to serve in public office. And we made it easier for members of the military to start their own businesses.

While I am pleased with our accomplishments, I know there is still more to be done. My office will continue to spend much of this legislative session focusing on four major goals: keeping our elections secure, open and accurate; restoring public trust in government; protecting Missourians; and growing Missouri business. In the 2015 legislative session, I am asking our General Assembly to make some changes to state laws that will help in these efforts.

This document contains my legislative priorities, filed on my behalf by both Democrats and Republicans. I will highlight these proposals throughout the 2015 legislative session, and I will work to show the General Assembly why these changes are necessary to help us better serve Missourians.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve.

Sincerely,



Jason Kander

# KEEPING ELECTIONS SECURE, OPEN AND ACCURATE

The Elections Division of the Office of the Secretary of State is responsible for voter education, administering all statewide elections, and initiative petitions. Secretary Kander believes only eligible voters should cast a ballot, but also that all eligible voters should have the opportunity to vote.

Since taking office, Secretary Kander has made the initiative petition process more transparent, worked with local election authorities to make voter registration more convenient and investigated allegations of voter fraud.

In 2013, he established the Elections Integrity Unit to allow Missourians to submit elections concerns directly to the secretary of state's office. In advance of the 2014 general election, Secretary Kander established the Elections Integrity Task Force, comprised of bipartisan law enforcement and elections officials to coordinate efforts that ensure Missouri elections remain fair, secure and accessible.

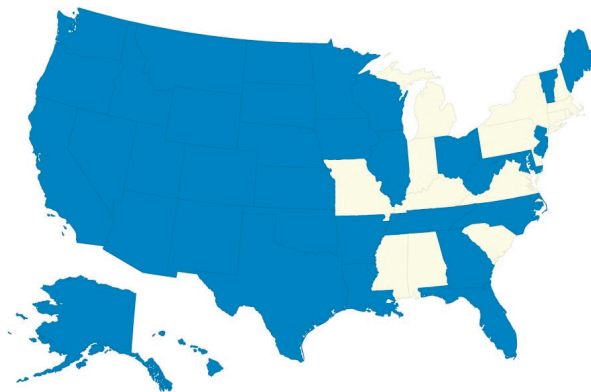
## HB 287 Rep. Pat Conway

### No-Excuse Absentee Voting

Missouri is one of only a handful of states that require eligible voters to provide an excuse to cast a ballot prior to Election Day. No-excuse absentee voting is a type of pre-Election Day voting that increases convenience for voters and helps reduce long lines and wait times for voters at the polls on Election Day.

#### Key Elements of this Legislation:

- Allows any Missouri voter to cast an absentee ballot in any election without being required to state a reason for voting absentee



National Conference on State Legislatures

states with some form of advance voting

states without some form of advance voting

## **EXPAND VOTER REGISTRATION FOR RETURNING MEMBERS OF OUR MILITARY**

For Missourians who serve in the military, returning to their communities following a deployment is a busy time. This transition is filled with travel, deadlines, decisions and paperwork. When this transition coincides with the deadline to register to vote, members of our military would benefit from an extended period of time to register to vote, update their current registration and request absentee ballots.

### **Key Elements of this Legislation:**

- Applies to military and overseas voters who have been discharged from military service, have returned from military deployment or activation or have discontinued employment outside of the United States after the voter registration deadline
- Extends the deadline for these individuals to register to vote in person until 5 p.m. on the Friday before an election
- Extends the deadline for these individuals to request absentee ballots to 5 p.m. on the Friday before an election

## **ENSURE BALLOT ACCESS FOR EMERGENCY DISASTER WORKERS**

Emergency workers are often called out of state to help aid in disaster recovery around the country. In the event of an emergency, it can be difficult to send absentee ballots to these workers. This was the case in 2012 when over 600 Ameren employees left Missouri and Illinois to aid in Hurricane Sandy relief efforts just before the general election, but after the deadline to request an absentee ballot.

### **Key Elements of this Legislation:**

- Permits emergency workers to request absentee ballots until 5 p.m. on the Monday prior to the election when an emergency has been declared
- Allows emergency worker absentee ballots to be sent and received via mail, fax or electronic transmission

**SB 34**

**Sen. Wayne Wallingford**

**HB 360**

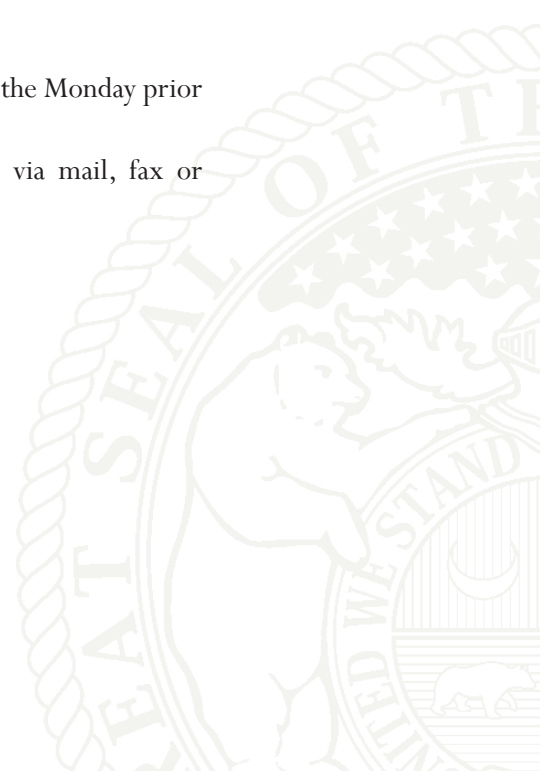
**Rep. Sue Entlicher**

**SB 136**

**Sen. Scott Sifton**

**HB 359**

**Rep. Sue Entlicher**



# RESTORING PUBLIC TRUST IN GOVERNMENT

Missouri has the most broken campaign finance and political ethics system in the country. It's the only state that allows lawmakers to receive unlimited gifts from lobbyists and unlimited campaign contributions from anyone. Politicians can lie to the Missouri Ethics Commission with no consequences. Our disclosure laws fall short of real transparency. After years of no reform, bipartisan support for change exists in the General Assembly, and Secretary Kander will continue to lead on this issue with proposals for meaningful reform.

## HB 304

Rep. Randy Dunn

## HB 327

Rep. Tracy McCreery

## HB 342

Rep. Kevin McManus

### REFORM ETHICS, LOBBYING AND CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS

In 2010, the Missouri General Assembly passed an ethics reform bill for the first time in decades, which Secretary Kander sponsored with then-Rep. Tim Flook (R-Liberty). But the Supreme Court struck down the law due to a technicality unrelated to the bipartisan reforms in the bill. As a result, Missouri's ethics, campaign finance and political disclosure laws remain the worst in the country. In addition to unlimited lobbyist gifts and campaign contributions, loopholes in our disclosure laws allow for the concealing of donors. And the Missouri Ethics Commission (MEC) lacks the funding, staff and tools it needs.

#### Key Elements of these Legislative Pieces:

- Reinstates campaign contribution limits and caps donations to political parties
- Criminalizes political money laundering and obstructing MEC investigations
- Bans lobbyist gifts
- Protects ethics whistleblowers
- Provides new resources for the Missouri Ethics Commission
- Expands MEC registration to include paid political consultants
- Strengthens disclosure laws and closes loopholes
- Requires all politicians to follow Missouri Sunshine Law





## **REQUIRE ETHICS AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE EDUCATION FOR STATE OFFICIALS**

Citizen legislatures include many individuals new to public office. As they begin tenure, they often have minimal knowledge of the ethics and public disclosure laws that now apply to them.

In 2013, Florida addressed this issue by passing a law requiring ethics training for public officials. A similar requirement in Missouri will help lawmakers become familiar and stay up to date with the rules of financial disclosure and conflicts of interest.

### **Key Elements of this Legislation:**

- Requires four hours of training to be completed within 120 days of entering office, with a 30 day grace period
- Applies to statewide elected offices, the General Assembly, executive department directors and acting directors
- Specifies that training shall include ethics, campaign finance and public disclosure law, including areas of chapter 105, chapter 130 and chapter 576 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri

## **STRENGTHEN DISCLOSURE LAWS**

Even those who oppose campaign contribution limits or bans on lobbyist gifts can agree that Missouri's disclosure laws need to be strengthened. Currently, Missouri requires political contributions and lobbyist gifts of \$5,000 or less to be disclosed quarterly, which results in money flowing to lawmakers virtually unchecked during the legislative session. With no limits on contributions or lobbyist gifts, Missourians deserve to at least know the source and movement of political money on a more timely and transparent schedule. While robust campaign finance and ethics reform is the priority of Secretary Kander, disclosure reform is a non-controversial step that can be taken immediately.

### **Key Elements of this Legislation:**

- Expands disclosure reports to include a responsible party for contributions made by non-individuals
- Reinstates 48-hour reports for contributions to state elected officials during legislative session that exceed \$500 and reduces disclosure report threshold from \$5,000 to \$2,000
- Removes loophole allowing lobbyists to attribute expenditures to an entire group rather than individuals
- Requires state officials to report lobbyist gifts they receive over \$15 in value within 24 hours

**HB 313**

**Rep. Jon Carpenter**

**HB 305**

**Rep. Randy Dunn**

# PROTECTING MISSOURIANS

The secretary of state's office protects Missourians every day. The Securities Division educates investors and fights financial fraud. The *Safe at Home* Program helps survivors of domestic and sexual violence evade their abusers by keeping their addresses confidential. Because he believes more tools are necessary, Secretary Kander is working with legislative and industry leaders, the law enforcement community and victims' advocacy groups to improve these services and protect some of our most vulnerable citizens.

Sen. Eric Schmitt

## SAFEGUARD SENIOR INVESTORS

Seniors are an increasingly attractive target for those who commit financial fraud. Our seniors, a large and growing segment of our population, tend to have greater financial resources than younger generations, and are more likely to face losses in cognitive ability.

Unfortunately, losses in cognitive ability often take time to diagnose, which makes elder financial abuse particularly difficult to recognize and causes many cases to go unreported. By working together, the financial services industry, senior advocates and other agencies serving Missouri seniors can effectively fight back against elder financial abuse.

### Key Elements of this Legislation:

- Encourages financial industry professionals to report to DHSS or the Securities Division of the secretary of state's office if there is reason to believe a vulnerable adult is or has been financially exploited
- Promotes collaboration between industry professionals and state agencies that serve seniors and investigate financial exploitation
- Permits industry professionals to temporarily delay disbursements of funds to allow for investigations when financial exploitation is suspected





## **STRENGTHEN THE *SAFE AT HOME* PROGRAM**

**SB 212**  
**Sen. Gina Walsh**

The *Safe at Home* address confidentiality program provides survivors of sexual assault, rape, stalking and domestic violence a substitute mailing address through the secretary of state's office to help prevent assailants from finding their victims.

Since 2007, the program has protected more than 2,000 Missourians, but it is not a guarantee of safety. This legislation allows law enforcement to crack down on abusers who attempt to locate their victims' addresses.

### **Key Elements of this Legislation:**

- Expands the set of aggravating factors in existing stalking laws to include situations where a victim is a participant in the *Safe at Home* program
- Subjects violators to a class E felony, resulting in up to four years imprisonment

## **PRESERVE THE PRIVACY OF VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

**SB 211**  
**Sen. Gina Walsh**  
**Sen. Bob Dixon**

The *Safe at Home* address confidentiality program is limited to victims of sexual assault, rape, stalking and domestic violence in Missouri. Similar programs in North Carolina, Washington, Oregon and Maryland also extend this protection to survivors of human trafficking.

Those who engage in human trafficking have an interest in locating survivors who escape trafficking situations. They may wish to silence and harm survivors, or even force them back into servitude. *Safe at Home* is an established program that can help victims of human trafficking.

### **Key Elements of this Legislation:**

- Adds human trafficking to the categories of victims who may be served by the *Safe at Home* address confidentiality program

## **MAKE VOTING MORE SECURE FOR *SAFE AT HOME* PARTICIPANTS**

**HB 362**  
**Rep. Stacey Newman**

The secretary of state's office has worked with local election authorities to use special codes in place of *Safe at Home* participants' names and addresses on voter identification cards and in poll books. Unfortunately, some *Safe at Home* participants still fear for their safety when voting in person on Election Day. Expanding absentee voting to include *Safe at Home* voters will address those fears, as would no-excuse absentee voting. No survivor should be afraid to vote.

### **Key Elements of this Legislation:**

- Expands the list of accepted reasons for voting absentee in Missouri to include participation in the *Safe at Home* program

# GROWING MISSOURI BUSINESS

When Missourians decide to start a business, they begin at the secretary of state's office. This puts the office in a unique position to help small business owners and to identify common-sense reforms that will help their businesses grow. On his first day in office, Secretary Kander launched the Business Outreach Office to help entrepreneurs get their ideas off the ground, and he pushed for legislation to cut red tape for Missouri businesses throughout 2013 and 2014. This year, he will once again call on the legislature to take action to create jobs and make it easier to do business in Missouri.

## SB 157

Sen. Wayne Wallingford

### MAKE MISSOURI BUSINESS FEES THE OVERALL LOWEST IN NATION

The Business Services Division of the secretary of state's office handles the creation and maintenance of business entities in Missouri. In July 2014, Secretary Kander launched a new online business filing system to streamline and simplify business creation. Previously, Missourians could file only five business registration forms online. Now, nearly every form that must be filed with the secretary of state's office can be filed through an easy-to-use website.

Cutting business fees is a natural next step to make it easier to do business in Missouri. This legislation reduces and eliminates business filing fees for numerous types of business entities, including corporations, LLCs, LLPs, PCs and not-for-profits. The goal of the legislation is to make Missouri the best state in the country for entrepreneurs.

#### Key Elements of this Legislation:

- Removes dozens of fees for filing business documents in Missouri, including those for corporations, LLCs, LLPs, PCs and not-for-profits

## SB 148

Sen. Mike Parson

### CUT RED TAPE FOR FAMILY FARMS

Missouri is home to hundreds of incorporated family farms. Like other corporations, they file annual reports with the secretary of state's office. Family farm corporations differ from many other Missouri corporations, however, because changes in their location and ownership are very rare. For this, they should be exempt from annual reporting requirements unless important corporate information has changed. This legislation exempts family farm corporations from filing annual paperwork with the secretary of state's office in such a situation.

#### Key Elements of this Legislation:

- Exempts family farm corporations from filing corporate registration reports unless certain information has changed within the past year

## HB 233

Rep. Diane Franklin

# **SUPPORTED LEGISLATION**

## **MEDICAID EXPANSION LEGISLATION**

The past two years that the General Assembly has failed to expand Medicaid have wasted an opportunity to provide health coverage to an estimated 300,000 Missourians, create tens of thousands of jobs and save struggling rural hospitals and clinics all over the state.

With federal funds available to cover the costs for 2015 and 2016, expanding health care coverage to those estimated 300,000 uninsured Missourians would involve no state tax dollars for those years. Moreover, the economic benefit of expansion is expected to generate additional state revenue.

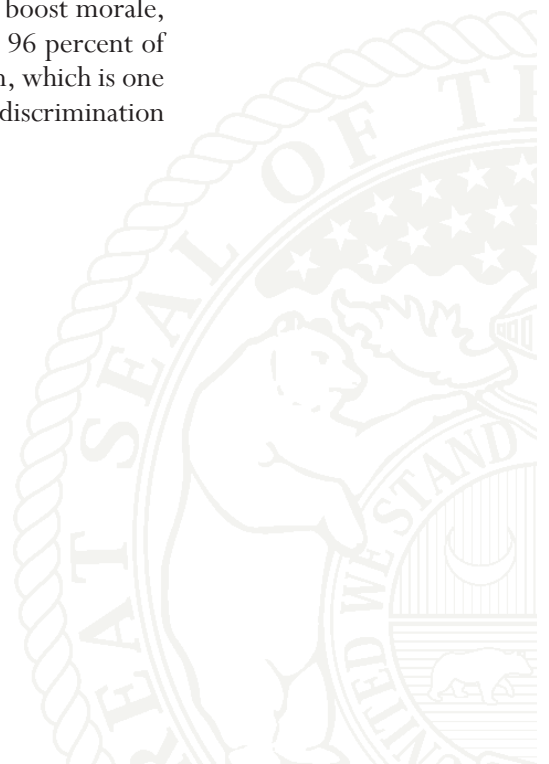
Dozens of state and local business groups have endorsed Medicaid expansion. It is the smart thing to do for our economy, and the right thing to do for our families and communities.

## **THE MISSOURI NONDISCRIMINATION ACT**

The Missouri Human Rights Act prohibits discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, disability, age as it relates to employment, and familial status as it relates to housing. It does not include sexual orientation or gender identity, which means that under current Missouri law a person can be fired, kicked out of a restaurant or denied a place to live simply for those reasons.

In 2014, Sen. Jolie Justus and Rep. Stephen Webber sponsored the Missouri Nondiscrimination Act (MONA), which would prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in employment, housing and public accommodations. MONA simply extends the existing Missouri Human Rights Act to include lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) and allied people. The proposal has seen bipartisan support in the past, but has not yet become law.

Enacting MONA is something we can do right now to help Missouri businesses boost morale, increase productivity, and compete for new talent. Private business knows this; 96 percent of Fortune 500 companies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, which is one of the many reasons Secretary Kander added sexual orientation to his office's nondiscrimination policy.





Jason Kander was sworn in as Missouri's 39th Secretary of State in January 2013. At 33, he is America's youngest statewide elected official. A former U.S. Army Captain, Jason is a veteran of the war in Afghanistan. Prior to his election as Secretary of State, he practiced law, represented Kansas City in the Missouri General Assembly, and served on the Missouri Veterans Commission. He is a graduate of American University and Georgetown Law School and is married to his high school sweetheart, Diana. Their son, True, was born in September 2013.